Sir, a Nagpur agreement was made to honour the sentiments of the people of Vidarbha and Nagpur. Even after 35-36 years of formation of Maharashtra the problems being faced by the people of Vidarbha and the questions in regard to the development are still same as they were earlier...*(Interruptions)* But, we have not been able to express our views before the people properly ...*(Interruptions)* You can make your point ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (RAMTEK) : Please listen to me ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : The dream of united Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (RATNAGIRI) : There have been several Chief Ministers from Vidarbha ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : The dream of united Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)* your continuous interruptions cannot stop me from saying my point ...*(Interruptions)* The dream of united Maharashtra ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Please listen to what I am saying ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till 2 P.M.

13.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock

14.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Ten Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) Need to Protect the Interests of Small Scale Bidi Producers in the Country

[Translation]

SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE (JABALPUR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the process of opening the doors of those industries reserved so far for unorganised sector to the foreign companies in the name of new Economic Policy, these companies have been allowed to manufacture small cigerettes. Due to tax exemption and other rebates these small cigarettes are available at cheaper rates and are adversely affecting the sale of Bidi. The number of small cigarettes manufactured in the country in 1994 was 7 crores which increased to more than 70 crores in 1995. Manufacturing of these cigarettes by modern automatic machines by big companies has posed a serious threat to the Bidi industry and the workers engaged in it. Manufacturers, manufacturing Bidis upto the number of 20 lakh were exempted from tax and other duties in the name of small scale industry. The purpose of giving this exemption might have been to give relief to small manufacturers but only big manufacturers availed of this benefit. These big producers began tax evasion in the name of being small scale producers as a result, on one hand, Government revenue decreased and on the other hand, exploitation of labourers in this sector got intensified. Besides, these direct effect of the new Economic Policy, labourers engaged in Bidi industry have also been facing other repercussions like increase in prices of commodities, un-employment, their standard of living has gone down and social security weakened. Therefore, my submission to the Government is that adequate steps may be taken to resolve the problems of the labourers engaged in Bidi industry and efforts be made to strengthen Bidi industry.

(ii) Need to Issue Instructions to the Government of Maharashtra for issue of Caste Certifficate for the People belonging to the Halba Tribe

[English]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (NAGPUR) : I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the grave injustice on the poor people of Halba Tribe Community in Maharashtra, particularly in Vidarbha region.

In spite of several decisions of the High Court in their favour, still they are being denied the Caste Certificate to avail facilities in education and jobs.

I would also like to say that the Nagpur Bench of High Court clearly gave decision in favour of the Halba Tribes *vide* Writ Petition No. 2984/1984. But the Government of Maharashtra filed a Civil Appeal No. 2294/1986 in Supreme Court on this petition, though Supreme Court admitted this case but refused to grant any sort of stay.

I would also like to emphasise that since there is no stay by Supreme Court by all means the decision of the High Court is binding on everybody including the Government, either it be Central or State. I would like to draw the attention towards a latest decision of Supreme